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10-14-03

PATENT

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

APPLICANT(s): Alfaro et al.

EXAMINER: Priddy, Michael

SERIAL NO: 09/803,266

GROUP: 3732

FILED: March 9, 2001

DATE: October 1, 2003

FOR: ANTERIOR LUMBAR
SPACER

DOCKET: 285-148

Mail Stop RCE
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. BOX 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

**PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT ACCOMPANYING REQUEST FOR
CONTINUED EXAMINATION UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.114**

Sir:

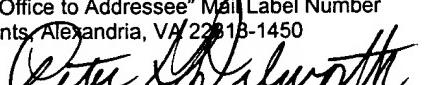
Preliminary to the examination of the subject application on the merits, please amend the subject application as follows:

RECEIVED
OCT 10 2003
TECHNOLOGY CENTER 2230
U.S. PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

CERTIFICATION UNDER 37 C.F.R. §1.10

I hereby certify that this correspondence and the documents referred to as enclosed are being deposited with the United States Postal Service on date below in an envelope as "Express Mail Post Office to Addressee" Mail Label Number EV 333227694 US addressed to: Mail Stop RCE, Commissioner for Patents, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Dated: October 1, 2003


Peter G. Dilworth